



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

For immediate release
June 12, 2006

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Legislative Hearing Tuesday on Chabot Legislation Improving Restitution for Crime Victims

What: Legislative Hearing on H.R. ____, "The Criminal Restitution Improvement Act of 2006" (to be introduced Tuesday)
Who: Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security – Rep. Howard Coble (R-N.C.), Chairman
When: 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, June 13, 2006
Where: 2141 Rayburn Building

Crime victims suffer tremendous losses at the hands of their assailants. In addition to physical and emotional trauma, victims suffer financial losses, including medical expenses, lost earnings, and property damage. Annual losses for crime victims have been estimated at \$105 billion. Restitution is intended to hold offenders accountable to their victims for their conduct while attempting to make the victims whole again by compensating their financial losses.

BACKGROUND...

- ✓ Financial Litigation Units (FLUs) of the U.S. Attorneys Offices collect restitution. A 2001 GAO study identified two factors within FLU's control that could improve criminal debt collection: 1) improving an inadequate collection process; and 2) improving the lack of coordination among the entities involved in restitution.

THIS HEARING WILL...

- ⇒ Evaluate the provisions in "The Criminal Restitution Improvement Act of 2006." This legislation provides additional tools for restitution collection by the government and strengthens federal restitution so that it can adequately and effectively compensate victims.
- ⇒ Explore the current process for ordering and collecting restitution, including which entities are involved.
- ⇒ Investigate why nearly 87 percent of federal restitution goes uncollected each year. How can the process be improved to provide greater assistance to victims?

WITNESSES: Professor Doug Beloof, Director, National Crime Victim Law Institute, Lewis and Clark Law School; Mr. Dan Levey, President, Parents of Murdered Children, Inc.; and Mr. Jim Felman, Co-Chair, Committee on Corrections and Sentencing, American Bar Association.

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